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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	)	
Harald Hoffeld et al	)	Group: 3745
Serial No. 09/600,941	)	
Filed: September 13, 2000	)	Examiner: Frank D. Lopez
Title: HYDRODYNAMIC COUPLING	)	

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Further to the Request for Reconsideration filed on January 2, 2004, the following additional comments are provided for the Examiner's consideration.

As stated in the previous response, the blade wheel of Bilton in the region of the tube as shown is open in the radial direction about the entire radial extension of the blade. Submitted herewith is a copy of the drawing sheet for Bilton '957 which has been marked up by Applicants' German representative to show the theoretical contour of the wall of blade wheel 1 if the filling tube were not present. A further sketch illustrates how the blade wheel would appear when viewed from the top with the filling tube extending through a cutout in the blade wheel that extends completely around the right most contour of the blade as viewed in Fig. 1.

As this sketch makes clear, the filling tube extends above nearly the entire radial extension of the blade wheel. In this region the blade wheel must obviously have an opening, which extends from the outer surface in the region of the outer diameter of the blade wheel 1 to the inner diameter of the blade supporting wall, which forms the working chamber. This opening does not have the claimed "at least one directional component oriented essentially tangential to the contour of the circulation of said operating medium in an operating state between said pump blade wheel and said turbine blade wheel, such that a rinsing effect of the operating medium is achieved in the intermediate space". Contrary to this, if working medium flows by way of the opening in Bilton into the intermediate space between the housing and blade wheel 1, the pressure in the space between blade wheels 1 and 2, which is higher than the pressure due to rotation in the space between the housing and wheel 1, counteracts the flow of working medium from the working chamber to the space between the

housing and the wheel by way of the opening and in the space. Accordingly, the working medium will flow behind the blade wheel and the claimed rinsing effect caused by the channel having a component tangential to the circulation between the pump blade wheel and the turbine blade wheel is not present.

Again, it is submitted that Bilton does not anticipate the claims. It is requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and pass the application to issue.

If further issues remain or if it would be helpful to expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 260-460-1692.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATION OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: January 12, 2004

JOHN F. HOFFMAN, REG. NO. 26,280
Name of Registered Representative

Signature

January 12, 2004
Date